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GOP Military Secrets

GOP leaders Dirksen and Ford staged a sad performance yesterday at their weekly news conference.

The country is in the throes of a foreign policy crisis that has shaken the OAS to its foundations, further weakened the UN and produced questions about the stability of American purposes and policies in every allied capital.

In the face of these problems, all the opposition leaders had to say was that whatever proposals they had to offer would be presented to the President secretly.

Does the opposition party have nothing more to say to the country? Such reticence is an abdication of the Congressional func-

tion, not a measure of patriotism. Unfortunately, it reflects the larger abdication of Congress as a whole. Except for a few courageous and lonely men, the majority of Congress has deferred to the President on every major question.

What the consequence of such reticence can be is suggested by the case of Admiral Raborn, the new CIA head. According to Marquis Childs, it was Raborn who misread the Santo Domingo intelligence reports, insisted that "another Cuba" was imminent and "seemed to have cast himself in the role of Paul Revere charging into the National Security Council to warn that the redcoats were coming."

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Raborn should not be finally judged on the basis of one performance. The point at issue is that no one rose on the floor of Congress when his name was sent up by President Johnson to take a hard look at the qualifications of the man whose judgments and evaluations would be crucial in shaping U. S. policy.

Perhaps it is futile to expect a GOP leadership whose outlook is still essentially dominated by Goldwaterism to raise these issues. But what other "secret" counsel does it plan to present?